

Education, Inclusion & Provision Department

Revenue Budget as at 30 November 2024

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	7,313	4,887	5,108	(221)	(283)
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	199	(199)	(290)
Agency - addition to establishment	72	48	14	34	58
Premises	14	12	11	1	3
Supplies & Services	4,152	2,676	2,617	59	88
Independent School Fees	9,113	5,618	5,618	0	0
Schools Contingency	225	157	157	0	0
Transport	43	23	30	(7)	(10)
Schools Transport	2,341	1,033	1,536	(503)	(754)
Early Years Payments	10,372	6,995	6,995	0	0
Early Years Pupil Premium	154	94	94	0	
Commissioned Services	1,719	890	1,090	(200)	(300)
Inter Authority Special Needs	1,175	795	795	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	182	84	77	7	10
Capital Financing	4,608	2,805	2,805	0	1
Total Expenditure	41,483	26,117	27,146	(1,029)	(1,477)
Income					
Fees & Charges Income	-424	-414	-414	0	(14)
Government Grant Income	-7,747	-5,300	-5,300	0	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-23,331	-15,554	-15,554	0	0
Inter Authority Income	-366	-216	-216	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-1,779	-1,098	-1,098	0	0
Schools SLA Income	-473	-383	-399	16	24
Transfers from Reserves	-84	0	0	0	0
Total Income	-34,204	-22,965	-22,981	16	10
Net Operational Expenditure	7,279	3,152	4,165	(1,013)	(1,467)
Recharges					
Premises Support	344	229	229	0	0
Transport Support	528	352	445	(93)	(131)
Central Support	1,603	1,069	1,069	0	0
Asset Rental Support	17	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	2,492	1,650	1,743	(93)	(131)
Net Departmental Expenditure	9,771	4,802	5,908	(1,106)	(1,598)

Financial Position

Net departmental expenditure is £1.106m over budget at the end of November, based on available information. The forecast outturn for 2024/25 is currently an overspend against budget of £1.598m. The main variances being school transport, commissioned services and staffing.

Employee expenditure, including agency staff, is forecast to be £0.515m over budget at year end, including honorarium costs to cover long term absence. There are a number of vacant positions across the department some of which are filled by agency staff, estimated to be £0.290m for the year.

The employee overspend is largely due to two services that were previously grant funded (Psychology Service and Assessment Co-ordinators). These services are no longer eligible for this funding, hence an increase to core funded employees.

However, the forecasted overspend for employees has decreased since the last reporting period due to a review of some services resulting in some posts being deleted and others being identified as eligible for grant funding.

Attached at Appendix A are the agreed savings for the department, two targets (EIP2 and EIP5 totalling £0.228m) are yet to be realised and as a result add to the negative variance against the employee budget.

Supplies and services costs are forecast to be under budget at year-end by approximately £0.880m. All spend in this area is essential spend only and the budget holders across the department closely monitor all spend.

Schools Transport is the main budgetary demand pressure for Education, Inclusion and Provision. The Council has a statutory responsibility to provide Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils with transport. This is split into two main areas of SEN pupils attending In Borough and out of Borough Schools.

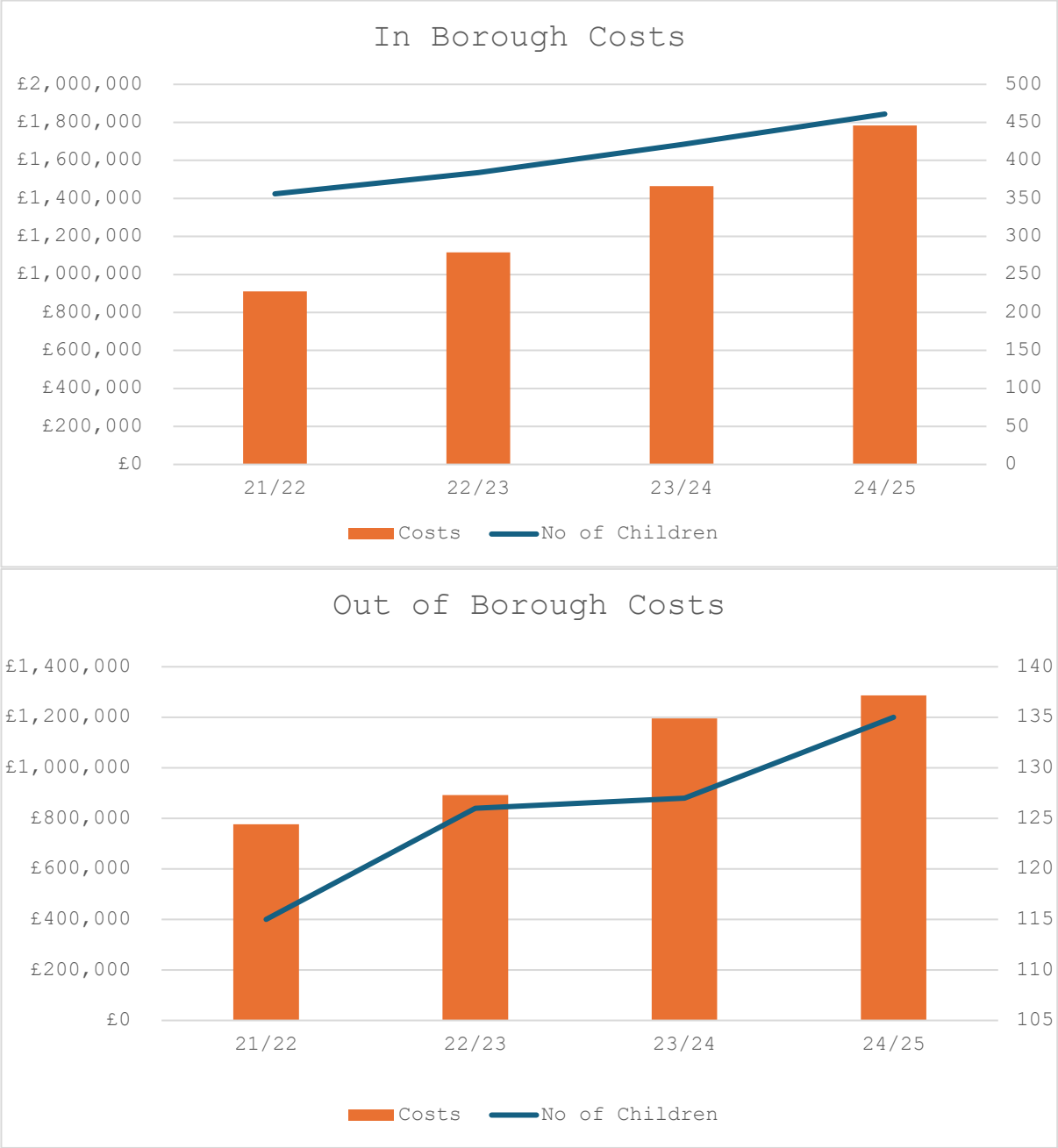
The table below illustrates the split between the two areas, and how each areas spend compares to the budget.

2024-25 as at Nov-24					
Area	Number of Users	Budget £000	Projected Spend £000	Variance £000	Average Cost per User
In Borough	461	1,826	1,783	43	£3,869
Out of Borough	135	489	1,286	(797)	£9,528
Total	596	2,315	3,070	(754)	

The current records show 596 service users, the majority of which attend schools within the Borough. The Out of Borough overspend has increased from the previous reporting period to £0.852m.

During the current Academic year, it is anticipated that these figures will increase, based on historic information. The demand for the School Transport service continues to increase in line with the increasing number of pupils with SEN within the Borough.

The graphs below show the trend in the number of SEN children using this service and the associated costs.



It is worth noting that this situation is not unique to Halton and is a burden across all Councils nationwide. There is a task within the Transformation Programme to investigate this and advise on how the Council can reduce the costs in this area.

Income figures have changed compared to previous reports due to the reallocation of miscodes (e.g. SLA Technical Support). Education Welfare Service & Careers Education Service are predicted to underachieve against income targets based on previous years and information obtained from the services.

Transport Recharges are expected to overspend by £0.131m (as in previous reports, the increase in running costs continues to rise).

Approved 2024/25 Savings

Please see Appendix A for full details.




Capital Projects as at 30 November 2024

Scheme Detail	2024/25 Original Allocation £000	2024/25 Revised Allocation £000	Q1 Spend £000	Q2 Spend £000	Q3 Spend £000	Q4 Spend £000	Total Spend £000	Allocation remaining £000	Comments
Childrens Directorate									
Education, Inclusion & Provision									
Capital Repairs	749.0	749.0	151	531	50	0	732.0	17.0	All Capital repairs are completed, just waiting final payments.
SEND capital allocation	3,355.2	3,355.2	178	519	322	0	1,019.0	2,336.2	Many of the repairs and SEND works are completed over the summer holidays and are mainly complete. Retentions due in 2025/26.
High Needs Provision Capital	255.6	448.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	448.0	This is the current unallocated figure. Discussions are taking place regarding priorities across the Education Estate, this funding will be used to address these.
Basic Need Projects	600.8	600.8	0	0	0	0	0.0	600.8	Currently unallocated.
Childcare Expansion	314.8	314.8	0	0	0	0	0.0	314.8	This is still in its infancy so no expenditure to date. 80% is for Early Years projects and 20% for additional works.
Total Education, Inclusion & Provision	5,275.4	5,467.8	329.0	1,050.0	372.0	0.0	1,751.0	3,716.8	

EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND PROVISION DEPARTMENT

Review of Agreed Savings

APPENDIX A

Ref	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
EIP1	Education Psychology Service	339	There is excess demand from schools for the Education Psychology Service. The service is valued and there is opportunity to expand our offer and generate additional income.	52	0		
EIP2	SEN Assessment Team	82	Consideration will be given to funding the full service costs from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.	80	0		DSG funding removed as does not comply with grant conditions.
EIP5	Commissioning	148	Review with Health colleagues how the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Carers could instead be provided by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as they are commissioned by the Integrated Care Board.	148	0		To be reviewed.
Total Education, Inclusion and Provision Department				280	0		